

Response to the Office Action mailed March 10, 2006
Atty. Docket number CU-2844

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 10, 2006, the claims were finally rejected. In particular, the Examiner maintained his rejection of claims 1 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,182,148 to Tout. The Examiner maintained the rejection of claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the combination of Tout in view of Maruama et al., U.S. patent number 5,835,924. The rejection of claims 4, 7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) was also maintained on the combination of Tout and Maruyama et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,873,982 to Bates et al. was also maintained.

Claim 1 has been extensively revised as set forth above and new independent claims 20 and 23 have been added.

Paraphrased, the independent claims 1, 20 and 23 are respectively directed to the methods of processing Chinese-language query strings entered into the address line of a browser that are described in the specification text beginning at page 14, line 5 of the specification as filed. See also paragraphs [0058] through [0065] of the published application, i.e., publication number 2002/01152258.

Amendment claim 1 is directed to the method of processing full phonetic spellings that are parsed against Full Chinese Pinyin as described in paragraph [0062] of the published application. New independent claim 20 is directed to the method described in the specification beginning in paragraph [0058]. New independent claim 23 is directed to the method described in the specification beginning in paragraph [0064]. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 and new independent claims 20 and 23 differ from each other only by the type of input string being processed. In claim 1, the input string is recited as being in the form of full phonetic spellings. In claim 20, the input string is recited as being in the form of Chinese characters. In claim 23, the input string is recited as being in the form of abbreviated Chinese phonetic words. Thus, the independent claims vary by the initial input string.

As for the prior art cited by the Examiner, amended claim 1 and each of

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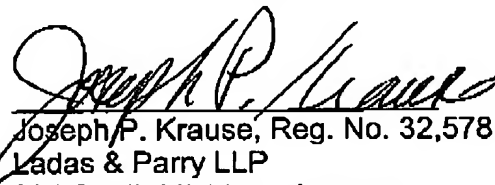
the new independent claims 20 and 23 recite the steps of parsing and weighting. The text of Tout and Murayama as published by the USPTO through its web site was searched using a web browser for occurrences of the words "parse" and "weighting." By searching the published applications in this way, it was determined that the words "parse" and "weighting" do not appear anywhere in the references. Thus, the Examiner cannot cite these references against the amended claim 1 or the new claims 20 and 23 unless he can identify by column and line number in the references, where the concepts of parsing and weighting is disclosed in them.

New dependent claims have been added which recite subject matter that was claimed in the original set of claims.

For the reasons set forth above, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration of them is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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